

and a shortage of provisions began to have their effect on the confederates; Robert of Capua fell ill, and the feudal levies began to complain at duration of service, Meanwhile, apparently, the Roger with part of his troops escaped the deadly heat by retiring into the adjacent mountains,*

His object was at last attained, While Robert began to contemplate abandoning the army, and the knights were reduced to a common destitution with the men-at-arms, the Pope gave way and despatched a secret message to Roger that if he would come to Benevento and take the oath of homage there he should be invested in the duchy, The host then broke up unmolested by Roger; and the first of many coalitions against him col* lapsed suddenly and shamefully,^a

The failure of the alliance was seen at Benevento.

In August, Roger arrived outside the city and camped on the hill of St, Felice, The negotiations covered two days and ended in Roger's taking an oath never to consent to any proceedings by which Benevento should be lost to St, Peter and neve* personally to attack nor allow any attack upon Capua and its principedom. At sunset on August 23, 1128, on the bridge over the

Sabato, he was
invested with a banner as Duke of
Apulia in the
presence of twenty thousand men.

Roger had triumphed all along the
line, Th»

* Falco, anno I is8; " In montuui "
»Al Td.» bk, i,f chap, xlv., " with **ihune**
returned ti» **Apulian**
heroes home,"